

TRUMP HATING ELON MUSK SEEKS TO USE TRUMP'S OWN TARIFF AGAINST TRUMP

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New tariffs on solar panels give Tesla Inc. an escape hatch as it fails in its job creation and investment promises around the globe and at its sprawling solar panel factory in South Buffalo.

The escape hatch could allow Tesla to avoid paying up to \$41.2 million a year in penalties to the state if the South Park Avenue factory fails to turn into the job-creator that both the company and state officials planned.

Because of the way Tesla's contract with the state is structured, the new tariffs don't necessarily give Tesla a "get out of jail free card" if it doesn't meet its timetable to create the 2,900 jobs it promises at the factory and among its suppliers and service providers, said William Savino, a Buffalo business attorney.

But it does potentially give the company more wiggle room – and a way to possibly get more time – to meet its targets without facing millions of dollars in penalties if the tariffs slow the residential solar market, Savino said.

No one is saying that Tesla is going to walk away from the Buffalo factory. In fact, the company and its partner, Panasonic, have been ramping up production since last summer, with total employment there now approaching 500 people.